

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string the method comprising the steps of:

- generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;
- generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications indicative of successful recognition of the corresponding candidate character;
- ~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~
- selecting ~~a plurality of~~ first and second character types;
- creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;
- for each the second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating ~~[[a]] candidate character characters~~ with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;
- ~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~
- ~~removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;~~
- for the first and second ~~each created and remaining~~ candidate strings ~~string~~,
- combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the first candidate string created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] the second selected character type of the second candidate string, extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] the first selected different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~at least one of the~~ second selected character type of the second candidate string ~~types~~ includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the ~~at least one of the~~ second selected character ~~type of the second candidate string~~ types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the ~~corresponding created~~ second candidate string.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer instruction code for performing a method of character recognition to accurately construct a result string, the method comprising:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications indicative of successful recognition of the corresponding candidate character;

~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~

selecting a plurality of first and second character types;

creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;

for each the second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating ~~[[a]] candidate character~~ characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;

~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~

~~removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;~~
for the first and second each created and remaining candidate strings string,
combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and
selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the first candidate string created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.

8. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the ~~most favorable~~ corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.

9. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

10. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] the second selected character type of the second candidate string, extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] the first selected different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

11. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein ~~at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types~~ includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

12. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the ~~at least one of the second selected character type of the second candidate string types~~ further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the ~~corresponding created~~ second candidate string.

13. (currently amended) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;

~~creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set;~~

selecting a plurality of first and second character types;

creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication from each result set, the first candidate string including candidate characters from both the first and second selected character types;

for ~~each~~ the second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating ~~[[a]] candidate character characters~~ of the second selected character type from each result set;

~~reviewing each candidate string to determine if all candidate characters of a candidate string conform to the same character type;~~

~~removing from further consideration any candidate string that includes candidate characters conforming to different character types;~~

for the first and second each created and remaining candidate string strings,
combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the second candidate string rather than the second candidate string ~~created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication and having all candidate characters conforming to a selected character type.~~

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein:

each confidence indication is numeric; and

the ~~most favorable~~ corresponding combined confidence indication of the second candidate string has a greatest combined value.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of: if there is no candidate character in a result set for [[a]] the second selected character type of the second candidate string, extracting a substitute candidate character of [[a]] the first selected

~~different~~ character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ second selected character type of the second candidate string types includes a plurality of subset character types and the second candidate string includes candidate characters from different subset character types.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~at least one of the~~ second selected character type of the second candidate string types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the ~~corresponding created~~ second candidate string.

19. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

20. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the corresponding combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

21. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the corresponding combined confidence indications of the first and second candidate strings are equal.

22. (new) A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string, the method comprising the steps of:

- generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;
- generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;
- selecting a plurality of character types;
- for a first selected character type, creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set;
- for a second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;
- if there is no candidate character for the first candidate string in a result set for the first selected character type, extracting a substitute candidate character of the second selected character type;
- concatenating the substitute candidate character with candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set to thereby form the first candidate string;

ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character;

for the first and second candidate strings, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the substitute candidate character corresponds to a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type for the result set.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication has a greatest combined value.

25. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the first selected character includes a plurality of subset character types.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the first selected character type further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types.

27. (new) A computer readable medium having computer instruction code for performing a method of character recognition to accurately construct a result string, the method comprising:

generating a digital representation of an input string including characters;

generating a result set for each character in the input string, each result set including a plurality of candidate characters and a plurality of associated confidence indications;

selecting a plurality of character types;

for a first selected character type, creating a first candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set;

for a second selected character type, creating a second candidate string by concatenating candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type from each result set;

if there is no candidate character for the first candidate string in a result set for the first selected character type, extracting a substitute candidate character of the second selected character type;

concatenating the substitute candidate character with candidate characters with a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the first selected character type from each result set to thereby form the first candidate string;

ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character;

for the first and second candidate strings, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication.

28. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the substitute candidate character corresponds to a most favorable corresponding confidence indication of the second selected character type for the result set.

29. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein:
each confidence indication is numeric; and
the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication has a greatest combined value.

30. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the first selected character includes a plurality of subset character types.

31. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the first selected character type further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types.

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